



Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959.

OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D.C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

D.A. Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone No. Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Area in acres | 23, 362 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | 3, 031 |
| Rateable Value (at 31.12.59.) | £107, 420 |
| Product of ld. rate (at 31.3.59.) | £352. 2s. 8d. |
| Population (Registrar General's figures), | 8, 980 |

TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my Annual Report on
the health of the population of Whittlesey for the
year 1959.


Once again I should like to take this
opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation
for the splendid assistance I have had from Mr. Bamford
and Mrs Tyers in the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health



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VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 77 | 73 | 150 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total: | 79 | 77 | 156 |
| | — | — | — |

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Whittlesey Urban District | — | 17.37 |
| Whittlesey Urban District adjusted | — | 17.37 |
| England and Wales | — | 16.5 |

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 3.84

STILLBIRTHS

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | — | — | — |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | — | — | — |
| Total: | — | — | — |
| | — | — | — |

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still-births

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------|
| Whittlesey Urban District | — | 0 |
| England and Wales | — | 21.0 |

The fact that no still births occurred during the year continues to show that the ante-natal care of maternity cases is quite adequate in this area.

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 77 | 73 | 150 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total: | 79 | 77 | 156 |
| | — | — | — |

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year)

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| | --- | --- | --- |
| Total: | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| | --- | --- | --- |

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------|
| Whittlesey Urban District | - | 25.64 |
| England and Wales | - | 22.2 |

Four deaths of infants under one year took place during the year. Three were under a week old. In two the cause of death was principally due to the prematurity of the children and in another the process of an uncomplicated birth gave rise to damage inconsistent with normal development. The fourth death, that of a child 11 months old, was the result of a fulminating pneumonia.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 26.6

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0.0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) 19.2

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 19.2

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 19.2

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of Deaths

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----|
| Whittlesey Urban District | - | 0 |
| England and Wales | - | 291 |

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------|
| Whittlesey Urban District | - | 0.0 |
| England and Wales | - | 0.38 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The most important feature in this section was an extensive epidemic of measles. No deaths and no serious complications resulted.

Immunisation against poliomyelitis was carried out by the County Health Department and by General Practitioners but supplies of vaccine to the latter were erratic and the scheme did not proceed as smoothly as desirable.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1959 :-

| <u>Disease</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Measles | 157 | 157 | 314 |
| Whooping Cough | 12 | 12 | 24 |
| Pneumonia | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Erysipelas | - | 2 | 2 |
| Encephalitis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Tuberculosis (Non.pulmonary) | - | 1 | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total : | | | <hr/> 366 <hr/> |

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|
| <u>Male</u> | 44 | <u>Female</u> | 40 | <u>Total</u> | 84 |
|-------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|

Death Rate -

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Whittlesey Urban District | - per 1,000 estimated population | 9.35 |
| Adjusted Death Rate | - per 1,000 estimated population | 10.28 |
| England and Wales | - per 1,000 estimated population | 11.6 |

Causes of Deaths in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied
by the Registrar General for 1959 :-

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis, other | - | - |
| Syphilitic disease | - | - |
| Diphtheria | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | - | - |
| Meningococcal infections | - | - |
| Acute poliomyelitis | - | - |
| Measles | - | - |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | - | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 4 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 4 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | - | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | - | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 3 | 4 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | - | - |
| Diabetes | - | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 4 | 13 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 6 | 3 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 6 | 1 |
| Other heart disease | 2 | 5 |
| Other circulatory disease | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | 1 | - |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | - | - |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | - | - |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | - | - |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | - | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 1 | - |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | - |
| Congenital malformations | - | - |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 6 | 4 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | - | - |
| All other accidents | 3 | - |
| Suicide | - | - |
| Homicide and operations of war | - | - |
| Total : | <u>44</u> | <u>40</u> |

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
 WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fourth
Annual Report on the work carried out in the year 1959.

The work has been mainly routine and
there was no particular item on which comment can be made.

I have to acknowledge my appreciation
of the support received from the Public Health Committee,
the Medical Officer of Health and the help generously
given as required by the Clerk of the Council and the
Surveyor and to Mrs Tyers who throughout the year has so
willingly carried out her duties.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD.

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Frequent orthotolodine tests were carried out on the water supply and in all cases a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found to be present.

The Town's water is purchased from Peterborough Corporation.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Total consumption | 105, 945, 000 gallons |
|-------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Average daily consumption | 290, 260 gallons |
|---------------------------|------------------|

It is estimated that 2870 houses are supplied with water either direct to the house or by means of standpipes. Many houses in the town as well as in the outlying parts of the area are still supplied from standpipes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year a small number of properties were connected to the sewer by the conversion of existing pails and vaults. These insanitary pails and vaults are slowly being converted where water supply and sewer are available. There is some reluctance to make these conversions, but this is because of economic reasons.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

Where no sewer is available the Council undertake the emptying of pails, vaults and cesspools. This work is let annually by Contract.

There are 238 pails which were emptied three times in every 14 days. Cesspools and vaults are emptied free on request once in every six months, extra emptyings are paid for by the occupier.

There were some cases of vaults and cesspools not being emptied as soon as they should have been and complaints were made about pails not being collected or spillage occurring. The Contractors were informed of these points. The service is a most important one and as the number of firms handling the work is decreasing it will become increasingly difficult to give a satisfactory service.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council operate two refuse collection vehicles. A Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cubic yard vehicle manned by a driver and three loaders collects trade refuse and household refuse in the town area. The collection is a weekly one and an attempt is made to collect at a regular time and day from each house. This ideal is not always possible as delays take place due to bad weather and holidays.

A Dennis 10 cubic yard vehicle manned by a driver and one loader collects household refuse from the outside areas. Built up areas have a weekly collection, the remainder a three weekly one.

The vehicles are washed and serviced by a driver and repairs are carried out by local garages. Although neither vehicle covers a big mileage (S & D 60 miles each week, Dennis 110 miles) the type of work is wearing for the vehicles.

As more new houses are erected it will become increasingly difficult to keep up to a weekly service. As an example consider the re-housing from unfit houses, a yard serving four houses could be emptied at one stop with a short travel by three or four men, whereas when the tenants are re-housed in semi-detached houses the vehicle has to move and four men have to travel much further as the houses are set back more from the roadway.

The foreman and collectors have given good service in a cheerful manner and there was no time lost due to absenteeism. Only one or two complaints were made by householders.

During the summer months the workmen operated a five day week. This did not create any difficulty and was appreciated by the workmen.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit in New Road. Flies were numerous during the hot weather because of the scarcity of soil to cover freshly tipped rubbish. During working hours the tip is open for the disposal of rubbish by inhabitants of the district.

Minor infestations of rats were treated with poison bait as necessary and good control was achieved.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are two registered common lodging houses. Both of them are well maintained.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Because of the housing shortage many families are living in caravans. There are twenty-one single sites licensed and all are satisfactory.

Of the four multiple sites only one, Cheshire's Yard, has Specific Planning permission. This site is well kept and is an example of what can be achieved.

Although the remaining three multiple sites comply with the low byelaw standards they are badly laid out and are short of facilities. On two of these sites are bus bodies not adapted in any way, often in a poor state of repair and sometimes overcrowded.

INSPECTIONS

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1959 :-

| | <u>Inspections</u> | <u>Informal Notice</u> | <u>Statutory Notices</u> |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cesspool, pail and vault work | 53 | 4 | - |
| Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses | 37 | 5 | - |
| Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops | 458 | 2 | - |
| Food Shops | 44 | 7 | - |
| Restaurants | 11 | 2 | - |
| Verminous and Filthy Premises | 5 | 2 | - |
| Housing | 178 | 19 | - |
| Nuisances | 26 | 9 | - |
| Rats and Mice | 74 | 3 | - |
| Caravan Sites | 43 | 5 | - |
| Refuse Collection and Disposal | 57 | - | - |

Of the 58 informal notices served 51 were complied with.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

No infestation of bed bugs was reported or found.

Two infestations of fleas were found and the premises treated.

HOUSING

Number of Houses erected during 1959 :-

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| By Local Authority | 15 Houses and Bungalows |
| By Private Enterprise | 7 Houses and Bungalows |

14 applications were received for Improvement Grants, 13 of which were approved and received grants.

Notices of Time and Place to consider 11 dwellings were served in the year, the results of the representations were :-

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Demolition Orders | 5 |
| Closing Orders | 2 |
| Undertakings not to re-let | 2 |
| Proposals to carry out works | 2 |

11 dwellings were demolished and 7 families were re-housed from condemned properties.

At the 1st January 1959, 40 dwellings were occupied which were subject to Clearance or Demolition Orders in 1938. 7 were vacated during the year and none were re-let.

Towards the end of the year six of the council houses in Eastfield Drive were completed and it was possible to start re-housing families from condemned houses.

Nine council bungalows were completed and the demand for this type of accommodation is very high. There is difficulty in finding suitable building land in the town area for bungalow development. The proposed Clearance Areas do not generally have sufficient depth of plot to re-develop, but wherever possible these sites are used for bungalows.

RENT ACT, 1957

A sub-committee of six members dealt with applications and this cut down delays in issuing the necessary forms and certificates.

3 applications for certificates of disrepair were received, these were considered to be substantiated and notices of intention to issue certificates were served on the landlords for all defects. The landlord of one of these gave an Undertaking to carry out the necessary repairs and this was accepted.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1959

| Premises | No. on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 20 | 18 | - | - |
| Factories in which Section 7 is enforced | 39 | 37 | - | - |
| Other premises | 4 | 5 | - | - |
| TOTAL : | 63 | 60 | - | - |

Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars | Found | Number of Cases in which Defects were found | | Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|--|---|
| | | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector by H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness | - | - | - | - |
| Closet Unsuitable or Defective | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| TOTAL : | 1 | - | 1 | - |

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Two Dealer's Licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" and two Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised".

Thirteen licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised".

ICE-CREAM

There are 33 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD

9 certificates were issued covering 10 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

Some meat from the Knacker's Yard is taken by a trader in cat and dog meat and sold in the district from a van. This meat is not stained.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are six licensed slaughterhouses one of which is used only occasionally for the slaughter of pigs. These slaughterhouses are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Inspections of these premises were made in preparation of the Slaughterhouses Report which is required by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The occupiers were advised of the works required to bring the slaughterhouses up to the required standard.

KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

No live animals are brought on to the premises but are slaughtered on the farms.

FOOD PREPARATION

The standard of Food Premises and the handling of food although improving is still far from good. As it is possible for one careless act on the part of the food handler to cause an outbreak of food poisoning affecting many people there can be no room for complacency.

| | |
|---|----|
| Premises registered for the making up of food | 11 |
| Fish Friers | 4 |
| Bakehouses | 3 |
| Cafes | 3 |
| Other food shops | 40 |
| Public houses | 34 |

MEAT INSPECTION

Ante-mortem inspection is made whenever possible. All carcasses are inspected except during the period when annual leave is taken outside the district. On these occasions there is a reciprocal arrangement with the Public Health Inspector of the Thorney Rural District Council to inspect if the butcher finds any disease or suspected unfitness.

Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

| | Cattle (exclud- ing cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed | 158 | - | - | 1103 | 1635 | - |
| Number inspected | 150 | - | - | 1021 | 1547 | - |

All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|---|------|-----|---|
| Whole carcasses condemned | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 38 | - | - | 8 | 26 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci | 26.0 | - | - | 0.88 | 1.8 | - |

Tuberculosis only

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 1 | - | - | - | 17 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | 0.66 | - | - | - | 1.09 | - |

Cysticercosis

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |

MEAT CONDEMNED

Bovines

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1 head and tongue affected with tuberculosis | 25 lbs. |
| 33 livers with distomatosis | 333 lbs. |
| 1 whole beast with bruising and dropsy | 388 lbs. |
| 4 livers with abscesses | 58 lbs. |
| 1 head and tongue with actinomycosis | 34 lbs. |

Pigs

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 3 plucks and 14 heads and tongues affected with tuberculosis | |
| | Total weight :- 188 lbs. |
| 6 hearts and lungs with inflammation | 33 lbs. |
| 14 livers with hepatitis | 53 lbs. |
| 2 pigs carcasses with swine fever | 97 lbs. |
| 2 legs with bruising | 14 lbs. |
| 2 pigs hocks with arthritis | 6 lbs. |
| 1 liver with cirrhosis | 4 lbs. |
| 1 kidney with cystitis | 1 lb. |

Sheep

| | |
|---|---------|
| 7 livers with distoma | 25 lbs. |
| 1 sheep and offal emaciation with distoma | 42 lbs. |
| 1 kidney with sarcoma | 2 lbs. |



